

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A cap and utensil assembly, comprising:

a cap having a cap top with an inner surface having at least a contact area, and having at least one upwardly standing sidewall adjacent to the cap top, said sidewall having an inner surface;

a rib structure on the inner surface of the sidewall; and

a one-piece rigid utensil with a scoop portion and having points of contact consisting essentially of first and second points of contact with the rib structure and at least partially along an axis of symmetry of the utensil and a third point of contact on the contact area at least partially within a contact plane through the axis of symmetry, the contact plane being substantially perpendicular to a plane of the inner surface of the cap top;

wherein the three-points of contact ensure that the utensil is securely held within the cap, and yet is readily removable therefrom.

2. (previously presented) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 1, wherein the rib structure is a continuous rib on the inner surface of the sidewall.

3. (previously presented) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 2, wherein the rib structure is spaced a predetermined distance from the inner surface of the cap top.

4. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 1, wherein the rib structure has a plurality of rib segments on the inner surface of the sidewall.

5. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 4, wherein the rib structure is spaced a predetermined distance from the inner surface of the cap top.

6. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 1, wherein the utensil is a scoop having a handle with first and second ends, and a material section with first and second ends, the second end of the handle being attached to the second end of the material section, wherein the first end of the handle, which is substantially opposed from the second end of the handle, is engageable with the rib structure at the first point of contact, and wherein the first end of the material section, which is substantially opposed from the second end of the material section, is engageable with the rib structure at the second point of contact, which is located substantially opposite the location of the first point of contact.

7. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 6, wherein the material section has an open top portion, and wherein the open top portion of the utensil contacts the contact area on the inner surface of the cap top at the third point of contact.

8. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 1, wherein the utensil is a scoop having a handle with first and second ends, and a material section with first and second ends, the second end of the handle being attached to the second end of the material section, wherein the first end of the handle, which is substantially opposed from the second end of the handle, is engageable with the rib structure at the first point of contact, and wherein the first end of the material section, which is substantially opposed from the second end of the material section, is engageable with the rib structure at the second point of contact, which is located substantially opposite the location of the first point of contact.

9. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 1, wherein the material section of the utensil has a substantially oval cross-sectional configuration.

10. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 1, wherein the material section of the utensil has a substantially square cross-sectional configuration.

11. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 1, wherein the material section of the utensil has a spout.

12. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 1, wherein the utensil is a spoon.

13. (currently amended) A cap and utensil assembly, comprising:

a cap having a cap top with an inner surface having at least a contact area, and having at least one upwardly standing sidewall adjacent the cap top, sidewall having an inner surface;

a rib structure on the inner surface of the sidewall;

a one-piece rigid utensil having three points of contact with the cap, consisting essentially of including first and second points of contact at least partially along an axis of symmetry of the utensil and a third point of contact at least partially within a contact plane through the axis of symmetry;

the utensil having a handle with first and second ends, and a scoop section with first and second ends, the second end of the handle being attached to the second end of the scoop section;

the first end of the handle, which is substantially opposed from the second end of the handle, being engageable with the rib structure at the first point of contact;

the first end of the scoop section is substantially opposed from the second end of the material section and engageable with the rib structure at the second point of contact, and is located substantially opposite the location of the first point of contact, the scoop section having an open top portion; and

the open top portion of the utensil contacting the contact area on the inner surface of the cap top at the third point of contact;

wherein the three-points of contact ensure that the utensil is securely held within the cap, and yet is readily removable therefrom.

14. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 13, wherein the rib structure is a continuous rib on the inner surface of the sidewall.

15. (previously presented) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 14, wherein the rib structure is spaced a predetermined distance from the inner surface of the cap top.

16. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 13, wherein the rib structure has a plurality of rib segments on the inner surface of the sidewall.

17. (previously presented) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 16, wherein the rib structure is spaced a predetermined distance from the inner surface of the cap top.

18. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 13, wherein the material section of the utensil has a substantially oval cross-sectional configuration.

19. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 13, wherein the material section of the utensil has a substantially square cross-sectional configuration.

20. (original) The cap/utensil combination according to claim 13, wherein the material section of the utensil has a spout.